

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-15 ACDA-10 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /077 W

-----071530Z 098869 /45

R 070940Z JUN 77

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 862

INFO CINCPAC

CINCPACREPPHIL

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 MANILA 8836

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MARR, RP

SUBJ: MARCOS SPEECH TO FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS ASSOCIATION

REMARKS ON THE BASES

REF: MANILA 8725, MANILA 8647

1. DURING QUESTION AND ANSWER PERIOD WHICH FOLLOWED PRESIDENT MARCOS' PREPARED SPEECH TO FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS ASSOCIATION JUNE 3, MARCOS WAS ASKED SEVERAL QUESTIONS ABOUT THE BASE NEGOTIATIONS. REPORTERS' QUESTIONS AND MARCOS' REPLIES FOLLOW:

2. Q: THE US STATE DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED A FEW WEEKS AGO THAT BOTH THE PHILIPPINES AND AMERICAN GOVERNMENTS HAVE AGREED TO RESUME NEGOTIATIONS ON THE BASES AT SOME APPROPRIATE TIME FRAME LATER THIS YEAR. DO YOU HAVE ANY TIME FRAME (INAUDIBLE)?

A: THE FORMAL PANEL NEGOTIATIONS, NO. BUT THE INFORMAL EXCHANGES OF OPINION POSSIBLY CAN OCCUR ANY TIME.

3. Q: HOW CLOSE ARE WE TO REACHING AN AGREEMENT?

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A: I DON'T SEE ANY SERIOUS OBSTACLES. YOU REMEMBER THAT UNDER THE FORD-MARCOS COMMUNIQUE OF DECEMBER 1975, SOVEREIGNTY WAS DECIDED UPON AS RESIDING IN THE PHILIPPINES IN ALL MILITARY BASES WHETHER USED BY THE US OR NOT AND, THEREFORE, SINCE THIS IS THE PRINCIPAL ISSUE, THE MATTER OF ATTRIBUTES AND MANIFESTATIONS OF SOVEREIGNTY

WILL HAVE TO BE WORKED OUT, BUT THE GUIDELINE IS THERE.

4. Q: WHAT ABOUT THE QUESTION OF LEASE-RENTAL PAYMENT?

A: I THINK EVERYBODY KNOWS WHY WE INSIST ON RENTAL. MY PREDECESSORS IN OFFICE AS PRESIDENT HAVE ALWAYS BELIEVED THAT THE CONSIDERATION FOR THE USE OF ABOUT 60,000 HECTARES OF OUR TERRITORY AS MILITARY BASES BY THE US WAS FIRST A MUTUAL DEFENSE PLEDGE OF THE US AND SECONDLY MILITARY ASSISTANCE. THAT THE MUTUAL DEFENSE WOULD INCLUDE THE PROTECTION OF THE PHILIPPINES FROM ANY ATTACK FROM OUTSIDE. THE POSITION OF THE PHILIPPINES IS THAT THIS OBLIGATION OF THE US SEEMS TO HAVE DIMMED OR TO HAVE BEEN DILUTED BY SUBSEQUENT OCCURRENCES. THE SYMINGTON REPORT OR HEARINGS; THEN THE NEW CONCEPT OF ABERRATION OTHERWISE REFERRED TO AS EXPORTED WAR; THE NEW STANCE OF THE US PERHAPS WITH RESPECT TO ALL OF ASIA, ABOUT WHICH I DO NOT HAVE TOO MUCH INFORMATION, BUT THE FEELING IS THERE THAT THERE IS A CHANGE IN THE POSITION AND THE ATTITUDE OF THE AMERICAN CONGRESS AND THE GOVERNMENT ABOUT ANY POSSIBLE INTERVENTION ON CONFLICTS THAT MAY BE CONTROVERSIAL IN NATURE, CONTROVERSIAL IN THE SENSE THAT THEY MAY BE INTERNAL RATHER THAN EXTERNAL-- IN SHORT THE INCLINATION NOT TO BE INVOLVED IN ANY MORE ASIAN WARS. ALL OF THIS REQUIRES THAT IF OUR COUNTRY IS GOING TO BE USED AS A MILITARY BASE, WE BETTER BE SURE OF WHAT THE CONSIDERATION IS FOR THE USE, BECAUSE NOW THE US CAN UNILATERALLY TERMINATE THE MILITARY ASSISTANCE AND THEN THE QUESTION WILL BE ASKED BY OUR PEOPLE; SO WHAT

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ARE THEY PAYING US FOR THE USE OF THE MILITARY BASE? WE ARE GIVING THE USE OF 60,000 HECTARES OF OUR TERRITORY, SO WHAT DO WE GET FOR IT? THESE QUESTIONS HAVE BEEN, INCIDENTALLY, ASKED OF ME BY VARIOUS GROUPS IN MANY VARIOUS MANNERS. SO THE NEED FOR CLARIFICATION OF THE CONSIDERATION AND THE USE OF THE TERM RENT. AT THE SAME TIME, MAY I SAY WE ARE INCLINED MORE AND MORE TOWARD SELF-RELIANCE. AMERICA MAY GIVE US THE IMPRESSION THAT THEY WERE READY TO HELP BUILD OUR SELF-DEFENSE CAPABILITIES, BUT THE EXTENT OF SUCH HELP WAS NEVER DEFINED. PERHAPS THIS IS THE TIME TO DEFINE IT. IF THERE IS NO SUCH HELP FORTHCOMING, THEN WE SHOULD DEPEND ON OUR OWN RESOURCES.

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5. Q: NOT SO LONG AGO, I THINK IT WAS BEFORE THE UP
LAW ALUMNI, YOU SAID YOU HAD ORDERED A STUDY OF THE
MILITARY BASES HERE (INAUDIBLE) WHETHER THEY ARE MORE OF
A COMFORT, WHETHER THEY ARE EFFECTIVE. CAN YOU TELL US
ABOUT THIS?

A: YES, SOME OF THE STUDIES...THE REPORTS ARE A VERY
ROUNDED VIEW OF THINGS. SOME ARE FOR, SOME ARE AGAINST.
AS YOU KNOW WE HAVE SOUGHT THE ADVICE NOT ONLY OF THE
BUREAUCRATIC CIRCLES OF OUR GOVERNMENT BUT ALSO ACADEMIC
CIRCLES AND THE CIVIC ORGANIZATIONS.

6. Q: IS THE BALL IN THE US COURT NOW AS FAR AS THE
BASES ARE CONCERNED? WHOSE MOVE IS IT?

A: I WOULD SAY THAT WE HAVE BOTH MOVED. YOU ARE WELL
AWARE THAT WE--I DON'T NEED TO CONCEAL THE FACT THAT MR.
RICHARD HOLBROOKE CAME HERE AND THAT THERE WERE DISCUSSIONS
ON THIS SUBJECT. SO DID MR. PHILIP (SIC) ARMACOST, WHO
IS THE SENIOR ADVISOR IN THE NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL
UNDER MR. BRZEZINSKI.
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7. Q: (INAUDIBLE)

A: THIS MATTER IS UNDER STUDY. TO BE FRANK WITH YOU,
THERE ARE ASSESSMENTS SUBMITTED TO THE POLITICAL LEADER-
SHIP COMING FROM ALL QUARTERS SAYING THAT-FROM THE MILITARY,

FROM THE ACADEMIC CIRCLES, FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS; SOME ARE PESSIMISTIC, OTHERS ARE OPTIMISTIC. WE ARE OF COURSE IN THE PHILIPPINES. YOU WILL FORGIVE US FOR SAYING THAT WHAT WE ARE MOST INTERESTED IN NOW IS WHAT ARE THE INTENTIONS OF THE US WITH RESPECT TO THE PHILIPPINES.

AND WE ARE CONCENTRATING OUR THOUGHTS AND OUR IDEAS ON THIS MATTER. WE WOULD LIKE TO THINK THAT THE US MEANS WHAT IT SAYS WHEN IT SAYS THAT ITSMILL REMAIN A PACIFIC POWER AND THAT IT WILL ADOPT-THE FAVORITE TERM NOW IS A FLEXIBLE BALANCED MILITARY PRESENCE -- FLEXIBLE. HOW FLEXIBLE, HOW BALANCED IS SOMETHING WHICH IS UNDEFINED UP TO NOW. I WOULD RATHER NOT SPECULATE.
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Comment:
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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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